

Application No.: 10/643,892

Docket No.: H6808.0003/P003-A

REMARKS

Applicant herewith petitions the Director to extend the time for reply to the Office Action dated April 5, 2004, to August 5, 2004. Please charge the required fee (\$110.00), and any deficiency in these documents, to Deposit Account No. 04-1073.

Claims 19-30 are pending in this application. Claims 26 and 29 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claim 27 has been amended to clarify the subject matter of the claimed invention. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 19-26.

Claims 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being "indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." In particular, the Office Action contends that "it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass." Applicants note that claim 27 has been amended to positively recite the steps of "irradiating a wire . . . with a primary electron beam," "detecting electrons energy-filtered by an energy filter" and "determining whether said wire is normal or defective."

Applicants also note that the amendment to claim 27 overcomes the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection. Applicants submit that all pending claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112.

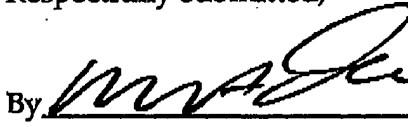
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Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Dated: August 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By  #33,082

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